

Appl. No. : 10/619.842
Applicants : Strom W. Smith
Filed : July 15, 2003
TC/A.U. : 1764
Examiner : Tom Duong
Docket No. : 141.015
Customer No. : 9809

Confirmation No. 7619

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 12.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A sealing device for a sulfur trap of the type comprising an upper chamber for receiving liquid sulfur and process gas and a lower chamber for receiving liquid sulfur, said device comprising:

an opening between said upper chamber and said lower chamber;

a hollow cylinder extending upwardly from said opening into said upper chamber;

said cylinder having an upper edge;

a float;

said float consisting of a generally spherical structure with a counterweight attached;

said float and said counterweight having a combined average density less than the density of molten sulfur:

said counterweight having a beveled peripheral surface; ~~and a lower surface;~~

said cylinder upper edge having a beveled upper edge surface;

said counterweight beveled peripheral surface and said beveled upper edge surface sealingly engaged in a float first position; and

said counterweight having an arcuate lower surface extending below said counterweight beveled peripheral surface; at least partially arcuate.

a cleaning rod attached to said counterweight; and

said cleaning rod extending downwardly into said cylinder.

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Claim 10 (Original): The sealing device of claim 9, further comprising:

said float moveable between said float first position and a float floating position;
said counterweight supported on said cylinder upper edge in said float first position; and
said counterweight removed from said cylinder upper edge in said float floating position.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The sealing device of claim 9, further comprising:

~~said counterweight lower surface below said beveled peripheral surface;~~
said counterweight lower surface extending inside said cylinder in said float first position.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The sealing device of claim 9, ~~12~~, further comprising:

said hollow cylinder having an interior surface;
said cleaning rod so sized and constructed to engage said interior surface upon relative movement of said float in relation to said cylinder.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A sealing device for a sulfur trap of the type comprising an upper chamber for receiving liquid sulfur and process gas and a lower chamber for receiving liquid sulfur, said device comprising:

an opening between said upper chamber and said lower chamber;
a hollow cylinder extending upwardly from said opening into said upper chamber;
said cylinder having an upper edge having a beveled upper edge surface;

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a float;

a counterweight attached to said float, said counterweight having a beveled peripheral surface and a an arcuate lower extension below said beveled peripheral surface;

said counterweight constructed to sealingly engage said upper edge in a float first position, said arcuate lower extension extending inside said hollow cylinder in said float first position:

said float and said counterweight having a combined average density less than the density of molten sulfur;

said float moveable between said float first position and a float floating position;

and

said float laterally moveable in said float floating position;

a cleaning rod attached to said counterweight; and

said cleaning rod extending downwardly into said cylinder.